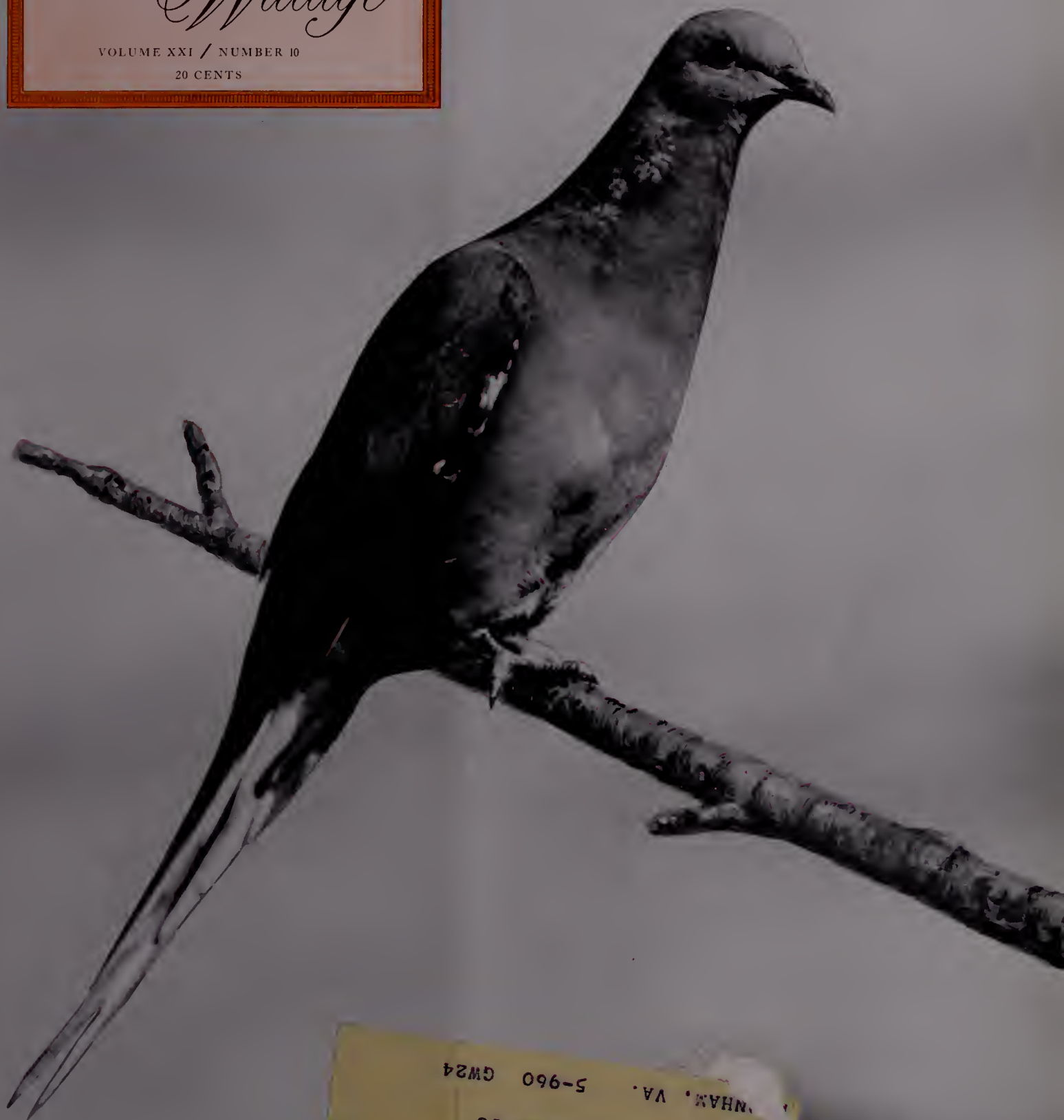


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Conservation, Restoration, and Wise Use of
Virginia's Wildlife and Related Natural Resources,
and to the Betterment of Hunting, Fishing and
Outdoor Recreation in Virginia*

Published by VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES, Richmond 13, Virginia



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OCTOBER

Volume XXI / Number 10

| IN THIS ISSUE | PAGE |
|--|------|
| Oil Pollution of the Seas | 4 |
| Squirrel Hunting in Virginia | 6 |
| The Future of Hunting Depends Upon The Gun | 8 |
| Connoisseur of Native Game Foods | 10 |
| Conservationgram | 13 |
| Music of Hound and Horn | 14 |
| Public Hunting and Fishing Areas In Piedmont Virginia | 16 |
| Bird of the Month: The Whip-poor-will | 20 |
| Waterfowl Conditions About The Same | 21 |
| The Drumming Log | 22 |
| Commission Field Force Notes | 24 |
| Youth Afield | 26 |
| On The Waterfront | 27 |
| Wildlife Essay Contest | 28 |

COVER: The passenger pigeon is now an extinct species. The last of their kind was Martha, named for Martha Washington, who died at age 29 on September 1, 1914 in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. She is now mounted in a glass case in the National Museum at Washington, D. C. A close cousin to the passenger pigeon is the mourning dove, one of Virginia's leading game birds. In spite of increased hunting pressure and its normal high rate of mortality, the mourning dove has increased its numbers steadily for the past five years. (Photo from National Audubon Society)

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October's Promise

AMONG all the months of the year, October, with its garlands of gold, is the most promising, most pompous. No person with a trace of sentiment in his veins or a spot of mellowness in his heart can help but be stirred by its splendor, its bounty.

Certainly the outdoorsman is stirred. Be he farmer who spends much time with the harvest, hunter, fisher, hiker, or just plain weekend traveler . . . he revels in it and finds it good. Pity we don't have more people who wish to be stirred.

Are you among those whose muscles are a little weary? Is your morale a little low? Then go to October's fountains of refreshment and fill your empty bottles with the mellowest wine in the world.

Go to the mountains where natural cathedrals speak a language of silence . . . go to some rimrock on a high peak and gaze across the painted landscape. Go. You'll not regret it. No Goya, no Rembrandt could put on canvas, not even in a hundred days, what your eyes can put before you in a single minute: emerald pinelands in the valleys, their ruffled branches still flowing in their summer green; matchless hardwoods distinct across the hills, bathed in trappings of yellow and purple and fire-engine red. For a moment, at least, the spectacle is overpowering.

If the mountains are too far away and a Sunday afternoon sojourn is out of the question, be not dismayed. There are fountains of exhilaration in your nearest forest, park, or glen. Go to them. Seek out a spot in the more open woods, perhaps a log or stump where squirrels have been eating acorns or hickory nuts, and sit a spell. Listen to the autumn wind . . . the strange, distinctive symphony of the forest: first, the trumpets of squirrels or deer perhaps, then the flutes of warblers, and finally the great string orchestra of mixed wildlife itself. Every passing honeybee, every woodpecker staccato, every woodland bird call lends its proper note to the chorus of the woods. Don't move yet. There is an encore . . . and encores are worth waiting for.

What you see and hear and feel, of course, is a concert performance by mother nature herself—a performance with a concordance that is, in reality, truth and beauty in one. If Emerson were beside you, he might have said, "the exalted harmony in the universe perfected and personified by the great Creator himself."

For those who prefer the tidewater and beach country, October can be as rejuvenating as an August mint julip beneath a magnolia tree. Nowhere is life more attuned to the season than at the beach: fish are more active and strike the bait more fiercely; sanderlings zip by with an extra zest; ghost crabs steal farther away from their burrows; and fronds of dry sea oats rattle more audibly in the ocean breeze. Yes, October's spiritual promise has no end.

But these are only sentimental thoughts and musings and are written prematurely. October's days and nights are yet to be.

So, come, October's rewarding spirit, come! The queues to your spiritual fountains are getting longer and all those in waiting are growing more impatient by the minute.—J. J. S.

"Rebel" May Be Another "Chris"

JUST as we always do, our family has enjoyed the (August) *VIRGINIA WILDLIFE* from cover to cover. Our old friend, the Great Blue Heron, is spectacular on the cover; we are a boating family of long standing, and endorse most heartily your pleas for safer boating. As avid duck, goose, and bird hunters, as well as fishermen (women), we hope that all the good conservation practices will be put into effect before all or most of these wonderful sports are lost to us.

But the feature in August *WILDLIFE* which really hit us in the heart was the story of "Chris." We are the owners of two beautiful English Springer Spaniels, Dunlop's Rowdy Rebel, and his son, Rebel's Rowdy Boy. My husband has talked with game Biologist Herman J. Tuttle, and I can't think why he never thought to tell him how our Rebel loves to "get up" the adult Iranian black-necked pheasants on Lem Smith, Jr.'s lovely acres in Charles City County. We are privileged to hunt geese and ducks with Lem Smith (the finest sportsman and conservationist I have ever known), and on our treks to the blinds, and back again, our retriever has great sport scrounging through the thickets to raise the pheasant. Young Rowdy, who appears to be even more promising than his father, will take to the field this year, and with his keen nose and sturdy aggressiveness, I expect will put his old man to shame. When the great day comes that pheasant shooting is legal, we hope to be all set for this thrilling sport. Meantime, Rebel and Rowdy will be happy to assist at any time in counting these beautiful birds.

Mrs. Robert W. Matthews
Williamsburg, Virginia

A Long Time Reader

I have been receiving the *WILDLIFE* since my return from service in World War II, a period of about 12 to 14 years. The *WILDLIFE* has given me many hours of enjoyable reading as well as keeping me posted on changes of laws and regulations. I want to commend the entire *WILDLIFE* staff for the fine job that they are doing and the much improved publication in the past few years. Keep up the good work.

Ellis H. Milan
Roanoke, Virginia

So Glad—No Ads

IT is a real pleasure to have one magazine you can read without having to search through so many miserable advertisements to find the subject matter. Keep up the good work.

Free Young
Herndon, Virginia



A completely oiled beach—with completely oiled duck in circle—in Greater Boston Harbor.

An increasing threat to wildlife and fisheries—including human health—is

Oil Pollution of the Seas

By LESTER A. GILES, JR., and JOHN LIVINGSTON

Photos Courtesy of the Authors

OIL pollution of the sea was not a problem prior to World War I when fuel oil came into widespread use. Increased domestic use of oil at this time resulted in a vast increase in the need for transportation in ships. There has always been some natural seepage of oil into the sea from underwater and shoreline deposits of oil. This, together with the resulting oil slicks caused by numerous sinkings of ships during both World Wars, has caused an extensive and serious pollution problem. In addition, there has been a considerable and continuous amount of oil dumped by ships. Birds did not become radically involved until the 1930's.

In the last decade or two, the problem has become more and more acute. There has been a great increase in the amount of oil being transported all over the world; oil wastes are increasing in rivers and harbors; oil from sunken ships continues to make its appearance; expanded shipping traffic has resulted in an increase in dumping.

North America is not alone in this problem. The United Kingdom and western Europe have had beaches contaminated over and over again in the past several years. The accompanying loss of bird life has been almost beyond belief. Both coasts of our continent are involved in this problem to varying degrees. According to Leslie M. Tuck of the Canadian Wildlife Service, the bulk of the damage in eastern Canada occurs off the coast of Newfoundland. On the east coast of the United States, John Dennis states, the most polluted section at the present time is that portion between Boston and New York. This does not mean that the rest of the East Coast is free of pollution. Florida beaches have had a considerable amount of contamination in recent

years. Less is known about conditions on the west coast of the United States and Canada. To our knowledge, there is also serious contamination in the North Atlantic, the North and Baltic Seas.

In 1924 a conference on oil pollution was called in Washington, to which most of the major maritime nations sent representatives. Discussion led to the drafting of an International Convention which, if ratified by the attending nations, could have become international law. For some reason no one signed it. In 1954 another meeting was held in London. The problem had, in the meantime, become much more severe. The result of this conference was a document called the 1954 Convention Relating to Pollution of the Seas by Oil. Among other things, this established zones of sea in which oil dumping was to be abstained from by all participating countries. It was subsequently signed by the required 10 nations. The United States did not sign this Convention due to certain clauses which did not seem commensurate with United States law.

This does not mean to say that local and federal laws in the United States were poor or lacking; they were and are among the best. It does not mean that the United States did not have port facilities for handling the cleanings from bunkers and bilges. It does mean, however, that the United States has been deprived of effective means of preventing oil dumping outside its territorial twelve miles by ships of either its own or foreign registration.

In 1959 a further conference was called in Copenhagen, Denmark. The sponsoring organization was the British Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, and some countries sent official observers. The authors were present. The United States State Department sent Mr. John W. Mann, Executive Secretary of the National Oil Pollution Committee, as its official observer. It was Giles' good fortune to read a statement to the Conference that the United States

Paper delivered at the 25th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, March 7-9, 1960, Dallas, Texas. Mr. Giles is Director of Education, The American Humane Education Society, Boston, and Mr. Livingston is President of the Audubon Society of Canada, Toronto.

Committee had reversed its previous stand regarding the 1954 Convention and would recommend that the United States Senate ratify that Convention with two or three technical exceptions. These related to commitments regarding the provision of harbor reception facilities. Other points, it felt, could be worked out through participation in the International Maritime Consultative Organization (a UN agency). There the situation rests at the date of writing—an international problem requiring an international solution.

Our prime interest in oil pollution of the sea centers around wildlife. Many forms of life may be involved in North America, but the most conspicuous to date have been seabirds. In other parts of the world, such as Britain, recreational interests, public health factors, harbor amenities and others are involved as well.

The focal point of the problem on our east coast is in Newfoundland. By far the bulk of the damage to seabirds occurs in the waters adjacent to that island, where the annual kill is quite literally enormous. Pending more extensive data, pollution in this area is thought to originate from ships using the heavily-traveled North Atlantic routes. It results from the cleaning of tanks, flushing of bunkers, disposal of "burnt" lubricating oil, etc., while under way. This is done to save turn-around time; to eliminate non-productive time in port. A very few gallons of persistent oily waste can destroy many thousands of seabirds.

A relatively small quantity of oil can spread out to cover a very large area. The British have demonstrated that 15 tons of oil (a nominal amount) dropped into a calm sea have covered eight square miles in less than a week. And oil is a remarkable traveler. Individual slicks have been traced for hundreds of miles. Local peculiarities of current, wind or tide can thus contribute to the damage where there are heavy concentrations of birds.

Virtually all species of North Atlantic seabirds are affected by oil. Most noteworthy in the Newfoundland area are murre, eiders, and razor-billed auks. Eiders, concentrated in bays and estuaries during the winter, are most hard hit by oil dumped near shore or brought into shore by winds and

currents. Murres are affected inshore and offshore. In terms of numbers murre suffer the heaviest toll, although razor-billed auks are so scarce in Newfoundland today that it is doubtful they could stand any further pressure.

Once contaminated by oil, a bird has very little chance of recovery. Oil "glues" the outer feathers together, exposes and mats the down underneath. Natural insulation destroyed, the bird has no further protection from water temperature. It dies from exposure. According to Tuck, a spot of oil no larger than a quarter dollar will kill a murre, if it is on the vulnerable underparts.

When a diving bird surfaces in an oil slick, its back and wings are fouled. It usually dies from starvation. Some of these immobilized birds are washed inshore alive where they attempt to preen. In the process, some oil may be fatally ingested. Beached birds along the Newfoundland shore are often picked up by foxes.

Estimates of total kill are very difficult to come by. First there is the problem of making actual counts. A further complication lies in the fact that many oiled birds die and disappear at sea before they can be counted. Those which do reach shore are said to represent only a fractional percent of the total number killed annually.

In February, 1960, Harold Horwood, Secretary of the Natural History Society of Newfoundland, described the 1959-60 kill in that area as "the worst in history." The razor-billed auk has been so reduced in Newfoundland that it is now considered almost extinct as a local population, though it nested in many thousands on Newfoundland islands twenty years ago. The total kill of murre and others during the current winter in that area is expected to run into the hundreds of thousands.

The birds of Newfoundland are particularly vulnerable to oil pollution due to an unhappy combination of factors: ocean currents, shipping lanes, and the location of their winter food supply. Thick-billed murre from the Canadian Arctic winter in vast numbers from the Newfoundland shore to the edge of the continental shelf in an area approximately 300 miles square. Pressure of pack ice carried south on the Labrador Current often further compresses the murre concentrations along its southern edge south and east of the Avalon Peninsula. This area unfortunately coincides with the established route traveled by major shipping traffic bound to and from east coast North American ports of call. Local currents often compound the problem by carrying slicks close inshore.

At the 1959 Copenhagen Conference, it was resolved that nations bound by the 1954 Convention, together with IMCO, should as a matter of urgency examine the need for extending prohibited zones in such areas as the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and other parts of the eastern seaboard. It is to be hoped that future investigations will indicate the precise zoning to be adopted, encompassing a sufficiently large area to protect wintering seabird populations.

It must be remembered that at this date the United States is not a member of the 1954 Convention. Present member nations representing perhaps no more than 50 percent of the world's shipping feel that ratification by the United States would provide a strong incentive to all other uncommitted shipping countries. Of particular concern in this connection are the "flags of convenience" not yet members.

Even when the United States does ratify, the problem will not be solved. The ultimate goal must be total prohibition—

(Continued on page 12)



This completely immersed merganser was recovered off the Massachusetts coast.



Old bushytail can be an acrobat like the man on the flying trapeze as he swings from branch to branch.

Squirrel Hunting in Virginia

By GEORGE McKENNA

Richmond, Virginia

Commission Photos by Kesteloo

VIRGINIANS probably do more hunting for squirrels than for any other game. It's a very good sport, and one that can be enjoyed in every part of the state. The right equipment and the right methods are needed for the best results, however, whether those results are measured in terms of the bag or in terms of satisfaction on the part of the hunter.

Most of the hunting here is for the gray squirrel, a bushy-tailed little animal that is about a foot and a half long if the tail is included, usually weighs a little more than a pound, and ranges in color from pure gray to rust. A second species, the fox squirrel, is much less common, and much larger. This squirrel is often more than two feet in length including the tail, can weigh over two pounds, and varies in color from rusty gray to brown.

The color alone is not a foolproof way to tell these squirrels apart. Sometimes a small fox squirrel and a large gray squirrel look so much alike it is hard to distinguish between them while they are alive. It is easy to do when they are cooked, however. The bones of a fox squirrel are pink then, and those of a gray squirrel are white.

Gray squirrels are distributed very widely over the Old Dominion, from the Tidewater region to the mountains, and are found in farm woodlots and suburban back yards as well as in extensive hardwood forests. Since they are by nature animals of the deep woods, the best place to hunt them is in a stand of white oaks and hickories that are mature enough to produce a good mast crop, and where the undergrowth of brush is fairly heavy. Many of the mountain hollows in the national forests and state-owned public hunting lands in the western part of Virginia offer ideal gray squirrel country.

Fox squirrels prefer much different surroundings. They like a grove of ancient white oaks with very little undergrowth, and also like to be near a corn field that can provide a good supply of the grain which is probably their favorite food during the fall. The best place to look for them is in a farm woodlot in the fertile river valleys of our western counties. They are uncommon east of the Blue Ridge.

These two squirrels have different habits which the hunter must consider carefully when he goes after them. Gray squirrels are early risers in the deep woods that are their natural home. On a cold day they may stir around for only half an hour or so immediately after sunrise and then go back to their dens until late in the afternoon, leaving a woods that is full of squirrels but appears empty to the hunter who has appeared too late to see his game.

Fox squirrels are the game for a lazy hunter. They don't stir around to any great extent until later in the morning and then they stay out in the open through the middle of the day. They are also much more likely to hide in the tree they first climb when a hunter comes into their woods, while the grays are more likely to escape through the top into another tree.

Both squirrels are untidy in their eating habits. Fox squirrels litter the ground around their den trees with corn husks and half eaten bits of fruit, and both squirrels scatter the shells of acorns and hickory nuts marked with their big chisel shaped front teeth in the vicinity of their homes. The hunter should first look over the forest floor carefully for these signs of where the squirrels are feeding, then go to a feeding ground before the variety he is after is likely to appear. This would be before sunrise for the gray squirrels, a

couple of hours after sunrise for the fox squirrels.

Once in the feeding area, the hunter should find a comfortable spot to sit and just wait for his game. Walking through the woods when the squirrels are out will simply drive them to cover well beyond gunshot range. Waiting in a spot where they are feeding, at the right time of day, is a much easier and also much more reliable way to get shots.

Most squirrel hunters probably use shotguns, and any gauge gun from 12 to 20, with either a modified choke or a full choke barrel and high velocity loads of number 6 shot, will prove effective. But squirrels are very tough little animals that can absorb a lot of shot and still keep moving to their dens. The noise of a shotgun will also frighten other squirrels away while a .22 rifle doesn't seem to bother them too much while they are feeding. The .22 means either a clean miss or a clean kill, so it is both a more sporting gun and a more effective one.

Almost any .22 that has ever been made will take squirrels if it is loaded with high speed long rifle cartridges and either the hollow point or solid bullets. Accuracy is very important for the best results, however. To be even a fair squirrel rifle, the gun should be capable of placing five shots inside a one-inch circle at 30 yards from a steady rest.

Most U. S.-made bolt action .22 rifles, and such lever actions as the Marlin Model 39A and Mossberg Model 400, will do better than this. Auto loaders and slide action guns,



Hunters who look for "squirrel sign" such as cracked hickory hulls can usually find where old bushytail does much of his feeding.

if in good condition, will also shoot tight enough groups to be fairly good squirrel rifles. But the important thing in this kind of hunting is to put the first shot into the head of a squirrel as he pauses on a limb high overhead, not to throw four or five quick shots after him as he scampers away through the tree tops. With an animal as fast moving and agile as a squirrel, that usually results only in a waste of ammunition.

The only way a hunter can take advantage of the accuracy inherent in his rifle is to equip it with good sights. Many hunters try to do this by using the low-priced telescope sights. These scopes are impressive in appearance, but they also have definite disadvantages. They have very small fields of view which make it difficult to pick up an animal as small as a squirrel as he moves from one tree limb to another. They have poor light gathering factors, making it difficult even to see a squirrel early on a cloudy morning when light conditions are usually bad. And they get out of adjustment easily under the rough handling that is normal usage for a hunting gun.

Much better results will be had with the same amount of money invested in a good receiver, or "peep," sight. The Williams Company makes one for \$5 that works fairly well on .22 rifles, and Mossberg makes one for the same price that works well on their own rifles. For about \$10 it is possible to buy a good receiver sight made by either Williams, Redfield, or Lyman.

These sights all have close adjustments for both windage and elevation so the rifle can be sighted in before hunting to put all its shots within an inch of the target at 35 yards. They are also rugged enough to take quite a bit of rough handling without getting out of adjustment. The aperture disc should be used when sighting in the rifle, then removed for hunting to take advantage of the widest possible field of view available in any type of gunsight. The human eye

(Continued on page 12)



Early-season squirrel hunting is usually very rewarding, especially in an oak-hickory woods like this.



John Courtney, NRA instructor at West Point, helps one of the thousands of young people he has trained in rifle-pistol safety in Virginia.

The Future of Hunting Depends Upon

THE GUN

By ALAN S. KRUG, *Former Graduate Fellow, Virginia
Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Blacksburg, Virginia*

Commission Photos by Kesteloo

HUNTING is one of the greatest of American traditions. In bygone years the sport provided the pioneers with much of the food and clothing on which they survived. Today, hunting is much more than a means of acquiring a meal. It is one of the finest forms of recreation available to Americans, and is enjoyed annually by over 15,000,000. It is part of "Americana."

But whatever the hunting scene, there is always one essential item present—the sporting firearm. Without the private ownership of firearms, there would be no public hunting.

Private ownership of firearms is being threatened. Proposed anti-gun legislation would so restrict the use of guns by the public that in years to come it is doubtful that there would be much opportunity for the average hunter to take part in his sport. That is . . . unless we can stop the anti-gun cranks now!

The second article of the Bill of Rights, Constitution of the United States, reads "the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." But in spite of this, recent court decisions indicate that the second amendment to the Federal Constitution is only a restriction on the power of the Congress of the United States and does not apply to the various states. So we can no longer rely on our "right to keep and bear arms" to preserve our heritage. We must now rely on . . . ourselves.

Anti-gun lobbyists are constantly at work. Many hunters are not aware of the supreme efforts of other shooter-sportsmen in preventing enactment of anti-gun laws in the past. These preservers of hunting rights need your help.

Consider last year's Pennsylvania Senate Bill 412. It pertained to rifles, shotguns and pistols, and provided that: 1) the bringing into the state of any firearm must be reported within 8 hours to the police who will determine the ultimate disposition of the weapon; 2) a permit to purchase any firearm is required, and no person under 21 years of age may be issued such a permit; 3) all firearms owned, possessed or acquired must be registered with the police; 4) sale of any firearm by a citizen requires the filing of a joint application for transfer by both the seller and purchaser; 5) a license is necessary to carry any firearm, either openly or concealed; 6) a license may be revoked by the issuing official at any time upon written notice; 7) a record of all permits and registrations will be maintained by the police.

It is easy to see what effect this bill would have had on the honest gun owner had it been put into law. And what is worse, it would have been a very big "foot in the door" for even more restrictive firearms legislation. But through efforts of The National Rifle Association of America¹ and other shooters' organizations thousands of Pennsylvanians were alerted to the danger. By telephone, telegram and letter, protests poured into the state capitol. As a result, Senate Bill 412 was killed in committee by a vote of 17-0.

However, in the year 1959 alone there were over 350 gun bills introduced in state legislatures and many more appeared on the local level. Some of these were not as

¹ The National Rifle Association of America (NRA) is a non-profit organization supported by the membership fees of public-spirited citizens. Its purposes are to educate and train citizens of good repute in the safe and efficient handling of firearms; to foster a knowledge of small arms and the ability to use them among members of law enforcement agencies and the armed services, and all other citizens who would be subject to service in the event of war; to promote social welfare and public safety, law and order, and the national defense. Membership in NRA is available to any reputable citizen of the United States, and at the present time exceeds 320,000 individuals.

The author is a former resident of the state of Pennsylvania, a graduate of the wildlife research unit, VPI, now residing in White Coral Sands, Florida. He is a life member of the Wildlife Society, a life member of the National Rifle Association of America, a member of the Pennsylvania Rifle and Pistol Association.

restrictive as Bill 412, while others were even more so. The fact that none of the more restrictive measures managed to pass is a tribute to the fight put up by informed sportsmen. There promises to be comparable activity in the future.

Who proposes restrictive firearms legislation? Sometimes it is law enforcement officials who believe that their work can be made easier by curtailing the use of guns by the public. This has not been the case in other countries where it has been tried, but some in America continue to believe



Many hunters in Virginia are active rifle and pistol enthusiasts, spending much of their spare time loading their own shells and caring for and repairing guns.



Starting our young people off on the right foot is important to future hunting in America. John Courtney, NRA instructor at West Point, and his associates have contributed greatly to this effort.



It is unfortunate that a few hunters don't consider the safety of others. Here a careless rabbit hunter swings for a shot on a public highway with children nearby.

it in spite of the facts. In other instances it is well-intentioned but poorly-informed civic groups. Sometimes it is the "Do Gooder"; in some cases it is subversive elements.

In one of the large Pennsylvania cities a great amount of editorial space was purchased in a local newspaper to support Senate Bill 412. A radio news commentator was the individual responsible, and he used his broadcast facilities to enlist support for the measure. When citizen gun owners looked into his background, they found that he had been identified with communist-front organizations for at least the past 15 years. This should not surprise us, as it takes but little thought to realize who would benefit the most if our country were turned into a police state.

What can the average person do in the everlasting struggle to preserve our "right to keep and bear arms"? First of all, he should be alert at all times; always on the lookout for indications of coming legislation that would affect firearms. Newspapers, magazines, TV and radio are sources of such information. Pertinent material should be forwarded immediately to the National Rifle Association in order that it be given widespread publicity among shooter-sportsmen. Informing members of forthcoming gun legislation is one of the functions of NRA.

When anti-gun legislation does arrive on the scene, every sportsman should swing into action immediately. Get all the information on the bill that is available. Give the information to other shooters, sportsmen's clubs, veterans' organizations, and other civic groups interested in sound legislation. Study the proposed legislation in the light of existing law and the history of firearms control. Then use the telephone, telegram, letter, and personal contact. Let the originators of the bill know that you don't approve and tell them why. Contact your legislative representatives and explain your position. Never underestimate what you as a single individual can accomplish. Your opinion alone might turn the tide. Most important of all, don't just sit back and ignore the issue, hoping that some other shooter will do your job for you.

The NRA lists five criteria that can be used in evaluating any legislation that pertains to firearms. These are:

- 1) Is it an enforceable law?
- 2) For what purpose is the law intended, and will it actually achieve that purpose?
- 3) Could the law be used by an unscrupulous person or party to extend or perpetuate its own power?
- 4) Is the law really necessary or does it merely contribute to a network of technical restrictions which can trip you or some other conscientious sportsman into being an unintentional violator?
- 5) Is the law an attempt to accomplish by prohibition what can be accomplished only by education and training?

Additional information on the subject of firearms legislation is available upon request from The National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C.

In the meantime, don't stand still. The best defense is a good offense. Support the organizations interested in preserving our "right to keep and bear arms." Take part in their programs. Do everything you can in the way of educating the public to the fact that a gun is made of metal and wood, has no mind, and does nothing on its own. Help young shooters learn good safety habits. Assist law enforcement officers in apprehending those who commit acts of vandalism with firearms. Encourage sportsmanship among fellow hunters.

(Continued on page 12)

Connoisseur of Native Game Foods

By EDDIE W. WILSON

Photos Courtesy Virginia Historical Society

COLONEL William Byrd II of Westover (1674-1744), colonial Virginia's statesman, plantation owner, surveyor, wit, and man of letters, delighted in wild game as food. Throughout his *Natural History* and his *History of the Dividing Line*, an account of the survey made to settle the long-vexing problem of the boundary between the colonies of Virginia and North Carolina, he appraises game in terms of delicacy of flavor, texture, and color. Thus he appointed himself from a gastronomic viewpoint an authority on the wildlife then so abundant in woods and streams and ocean.

Since the territory of the buffalo at that time included the Virginia-North Carolina area in the above mentioned survey, Byrd records the shooting of "a Young Buffalo of two Years Old." This was "a Bull, which notwithstanding he was no older, was as big as an ordinary Ox." As to its meat: "All the Difference I could perceive between the Flesh of Buffalo and Common Beef was that the Flesh of the first was much Yellower than that of the other. . . . The Men were so delighted with this new dyet that the Gridiron and Frying-Pan had no more rest all night than a poor Husband Subject to Curtain Lectures."

Regarding bear he found "the Flesh of this Animal has a high Relish, different from that of other Creatures, tho' inclining nearest to that of Pork, or rather of Wild Boar. . . . A true Woodsman prefers this Sort of meat to that of the fattest Venison, not only for the Hautgout [high flavor] but also because the Fat of it is well tasted. . . . Its fat

is more pleasant than butter." Then, not wishing to lose a chance to comment upon his fellowmen, he observes that bears never risk "their unwieldy Bodies on the Smaller Limbs of a Tree" when gathering chestnuts or acorns for food and thus "acts more reasonably than many of his Betters who indiscreetly Venture upon frail Projects that won't bear them."

Of deer he says that "There are great numbers of *harts* in the forests" and he "likes the flavor of their meat." Opossum "meat is very good to eat." And squirrels "eat nuts and acorns and are a very good meal."

The meat of birds, both large and small, was worthy of comment.

He found wild turkeys "very delicious, especially the hens." They "make a splendid dish, boiled or roasted." They "have commonly a finger's thickness of fat on their back, which one uses for cooking."

As to the crane, its quill was "fine for writing, its meat is very good to eat, and yields a very tasty broth" and he "equally admired the meat and feathers of wild swans."

Moreover, wild doves merit special attention: "One finds here such a terrible number of *wild doves* that their great enormous flocks, whenever they fly from the country, darken the sun for quite a while, and when they want to rest in the woods, they break the branches because of their numbers. . . . They are ordinarily very fat and splendid to eat."

Byrd's favorite fresh water fish seem to be pikes "of

This is an unusual old photo of Westover, home of Colonel William Byrd II, prior to its being remodeled in the 1920's.





Colonel William Byrd II (1674-1744), Virginia's statesman, plantation owner, surveyor, wit, and man of letters, delighted in wild game and appointed himself, from a gastro-nomic viewpoint, an authority on wildlife.

different species and colors [and] of very good taste"; bass which "have very beautiful, hard, white meat"; catfish whose "meat tastes like an eel"; trout, "all excellent in flavor"; and sturgeons of which he says: "This is a beautiful, large and splendid fish, about seven or eight feet long" and "When it is baked, it has a taste like the best veal."

His salt water fish include bonitos, a "very tasty fish"; Spanish mackerel, also a "good tasty fish"; red drumfish with its "exceptionally good meat"; codfish with its "very good hard meat"; and sheepsheads which "have the general reputation of being the most delicious and best fish in this country."

Among favored shell fish are fiddler crabs, "good to eat,

either boiled or baked"; shrimp from which "good ragouts may be made"; crayfish, "eaten mostly in Summer in salads with vinegar and olive oil, onions, or small salad herbs"; scallops, "very good to eat, whether raw or cooked"; clams which "produce a very strong broth" and "taste excellent either baked or just [raw] directly from the salt water." Then, finally, he bestows his highest praise upon "oysters, large or small": These "may be eaten raw or cooked. . . . They are also roasted; likewise splendid ragouts and many dishes are prepared from them. I can testify from experience and say that these oysters are of the best and most agreeable foods in the whole world, since one as it were, can prepare and serve them in a hundred ways."

The ABC's of Good Sportsmanship

Always practice safe gunhandling.
Be considerate of the landowner. You are his guest.
Conduct yourself as a SPORTSMAN should.
Don't be a game-hog.
Educate youth in the principles of sportsmanship.
Favor the fellow who is hunting with you.
Give wildlife a break. Work for its conservation.
Have the location of your hunting partner always in mind.
Influence others to hunt safely.
Join a sportsman's organization.
Keep a clean camp.
Leave young wildlife alone.
Make sure of your target before you shoot.
Never leave a cripple to go to waste.

Obeys the game laws to the letter.
Put yourself in the other fellow's place. Treat him accordingly.
Quit harping about good sportsmanship and do something about it.
Retrieve every piece of game you knock down.
Share your game bag with the farmer.
Take a boy, other than your own, hunting or fishing.
Unite your fellow sportsmen in a common effort to provide better hunting and fishing.
Value, and protect, your privilege to own and bear firearms.
Work for all sound game management measures.
X may mark the spot if you mix gunpowder and alcohol.
Young America's future field sport depends on YOU.
Zeal in game restoration activities will pay big dividends.

OIL POLLUTION OF THE SEAS

(Continued from page 5)

and actual avoidance—of the dumping of persistent oils anywhere at sea. The authors do not believe there are so-called “safe” areas of ocean, although dumping areas still exist in the North Sea, the Baltic, and most of the Atlantic, and in other parts of the world.

In the interim, more effective methods of dispersing oil already dumped must be devised. To make total avoidance feasible, there must be improved reception facilities both from quantitative and qualitative standpoints at ports of call. Separators must be built into all new ships. Enforcement must become an international reality.

Efforts in this ultimate direction can only be successful when North American conservationists have a well-documented case concerning the effects of oil, its precise origins, its persistence, and its drift, along all our coastlines. Present knowledge of the effects of oil pollution in North America—meagre as it is—is limited almost exclusively to birds. Much more is needed on this subject alone, but there are indications that research should be extended to include shellfish and other marine invertebrates, and such ecological disruptions that investigation is almost certain to reveal.

In referring to improved international cooperation and enforcement, we do not imply any need to convince other countries of the necessity. Many of them know the necessity better than do we in Canada and the United States. We are referring to easier means of cooperation, such as the meeting held in Copenhagen in 1959. Such conferences should be held regularly (which provide the basis for improved international action) until the problem has been resolved.

We must also bend every effort to bring these matters before the eyes of the general public, so that future action by way of legislation is understood and supported, and private efforts to alleviate the effects of pollution are appreciated. Finally we ask that any individual or organization in a position to and willing to make a contribution of finances, public education or research join with us to the end that effective action will reduce the tremendous loss of life and economic damage that so far has been increasing year after year.

In Canada, interested parties should contact Audubon Society of Canada, 423 Sherbourne Street, Toronto 5. In the United States, contact Oil Pollution Survey, The American Humane Education Society, 180 Longwood Avenue, Boston 15, Massachusetts.

SQUIRREL HUNTING IN VIRGINIA

(Continued from page 7)

has an uncanny ability to find the exact center of the ring of light formed by a receiver sight, and will do it without any conscious thought on the part of the shooter.

In most cases, installing a receiver sight on a rifle also means installing a new and higher front sight. Best results will be had with a simple sight that gives the effect of a square topped post when aligned on the target, and the sights should be adjusted so the point of impact for the bullet is right on top of the front sight at the range for which the rifle is most likely to be used. When hunting, the hood, which is simply a cover to protect the sight, should be removed.

The usual so-called open sights that come from the factory with most rifles really aren't much good. For one thing,

the rear sight hides too much of the target, and it is too difficult to adjust the sight the small amount necessary to move the impact point of the bullet less than an inch at normal hunting ranges. A \$30 rifle with 10 or 12 dollars worth of good iron sights will generally give much better results for squirrel hunting than a \$50 rifle equipped with the sights installed at the factory.

THE FUTURE OF HUNTING

(Continued from page 9)

Remember, the future of hunting depends on . . . the gun . . . and you! If we believe that our sons and grandsons should be able to enjoy our cherished sport in the years to come, we must stop the anti-gun cracks now. We must be ever alert and do our job. We must *take action* and *fight anti-gun legislation!*

Boat Numbering Provision Slightly Revised

One problem facing the boating public in Virginia is what to do with the state numbers painted on the boats they buy. Keep them or take them off? Here's the Commission's most recent interpretation of the law in this regard:

If you plan to use a motor of 10 or more horsepower on the boat, simply have the number transferred to your name by sending a regular certificate of number application to the Game Commission's office in Richmond, noting on the application, in the space provided, the number on the boat, and including one dollar.

But what if you plan to power the numbered boat with a motor of less than 10 horsepower or no motor at all?

Originally, the game commission recommended that the new owner leave the number on the boat, but the United States Coast Guard has interpreted the law to mean that no number should be displayed unless there is a valid registration certificate to accompany it. Law enforcement officials would be wasting their time if they tried to determine the correct ownership of a boat which is numbered but not registered. This interpretation is similar to that of license plates displayed on motor vehicles, which cannot be displayed except by the properly registered owners.

So, if you buy a boat with a Virginia registration number on it and do not plan to power it with a motor of 10 or more horsepower, you'll have to remove the number.

Midyette Chosen for Advisory Legislative Council Committee

A committee appointed by the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council will study the laws of Virginia relating to game, inland fisheries, and dogs. Webb Midyette, chief of the game commission's law enforcement division, has been asked to serve on this committee.

The Committee, headed by the Honorable Arthur H. Richardson of Dinwiddie County, was appointed to study these laws because there has been no general revision of the fish, game and dog laws for many years. It is the opinion of the Council that the changing of the times has necessitated some changes in the laws. The laws will be adapted to present conditions and they will be revised and clarified where necessary.

The Council must complete its study and make a report to the Governor and the General Assembly not later than October 1, 1961.

CONSERVATIONGRAM

Commission Activities and Late Wildlife News . . . At A Glance

COMMISSION SETS DUCK AND GOOSE SEASONS. Virginia's 1960-61 duck and goose open seasons,

set by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries at its recent meeting in Winchester, are as follows:

Duck and coot season will begin at 12 noon on November 19 and close at sunset on January 7. Other than on opening day, these species may be hunted from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. The bag limits for ducks will be three a day and six in possession. Only two wood ducks and one hooded merganser may be included, and no canvasbacks or redhead ducks may be taken. The coot bag limit has been increased this year to six a day and 12 in possession.

The Commission adopted a 60-day goose and brant season, 10 days longer than last season's, which will open at noon on November 9 and close at sunset on January 7 with hunting from one-half hour before sunrise after opening day.

The bag limit on geese is the same as last year, two a day and four in possession, while the brant bag limit was increased to eight a day and eight in possession.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has changed the hunting hours on rails, snipe and woodcock. The original announcement this year set the shooting hours for these species as sunrise to sunset. This regulation has been amended to state that the shooting hours of ALL migratory game birds will be one-half hour before sunrise to sunset (except doves, which are hunted from noon to sunset). At Back Bay, no hunter may leave shore before one-half hour before sunrise nor shoot later than 4 p.m. On Virginia's Pamunkey River it is unlawful to hunt on Wednesdays.

TOM KIMBALL IS NEW WILDLIFE FEDERATION DIRECTOR. Thomas L. Kimball of Denver, Colo., has been appointed Executive Director of the National Wildlife Federation, effective Sept. 1, 1960. He is 42-years-old.

Except for four years of service in the U. S. Air Force during World War II, Kimball served in many capacities with the Arizona Game and Fish Commission during the period 1939 to 1952. In 1952, he became director of the Colorado Game and Fish Department and served in that capacity until accepting the position with the National Wildlife Federation.

VIRGINIA BIG GAME TROPHY CONTEST REMINDER. Don't forget the annual Big Game Trophy Contest this year. Regional contests are being run in Newport News, Oct. 15, for eastern entries and at Harrisonburg for western entries on Oct. 27, 28, and 29. The State Contest will be held in Harrisonburg on Oct. 29. If you killed a deer or bear last year, check the rules and details in the August issue of Virginia Wildlife.

NATIONAL AND SOUTHEASTERN STATES REGIONAL SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIPS. Virginia is fortunate this year to be host to the Southeastern States Regional Shooting Dog Championship and the National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship to be held at Hawfield. The Regional on Nov. 16 will follow the Virginia Amateur on Nov. 14. The National will take place on December 5.

LOUDOUN COUNTY IWLA TO HOLD RODEO. The Loudoun County Izaak Walton League of America will hold a real western rodeo at their Chapter park on Route 15 near Leesburg, October 1 and 2 at 1:30 p.m. A highlight of the show will be the appearance of Arthur Godfrey, famous radio and television star, and his famous palomino "Goldie." Chairman of the rodeo is Sam Paylor, manager of Godfrey's Beacon Hill Farm. Publicity Director George P. Grove said prices would be \$1.50 for adults and \$.75 for children under 12. Events include bull dogging, bull riding, calf roping, cutting horse contest and bareback and bronco riding.

Music Of Hounds

It's a crisp, early November morning in Fauquier County. The hills and valleys are still blazing in their autumn garbs of red, yellow and orange. The grass glistens with the satin of a fresh frost. At first the sound is far away, muffled and faint. Then it comes closer and becomes clearer. For hundreds of years, man has thrilled to the music of the hounds and the horn of the hunter in their chase of that eternal quarry . . . the fox. First comes the silent fox, darting, running, over logs, through fences, across a creek. Not far behind are the hounds with their mournful yelps and howls proclaiming that the fox is just ahead. Then the galloping horses. Hunter horses carrying well dressed riders. First the scarlet coats, then the others, running, jumping, over logs, over fences, across a creek. The cloud of dust settles. The music of the hounds and the horn of the hunter

Text and Photos



Huntsman Sterling "Duke" Leach readies the Orange County Hunt Club fox hounds for the hunt near The Plains in Fauquier County.



The hunt is about to start as the Orange County Hunt Club organizes the chase.



Up and over goes one of the members of the Orange County Hunt Club in Fauquier County as they give chase to a fox. Special jump fences are constructed on these farms in Fauquier County.



A special type of horse called the hunter is used in this type of fox hunting. Members of the Orange County Hunt have their horses brought to the hunt area in vans.



And And Horn

ade in the crisp autumn air. The concert is over, the musicians have gone, but the theater is the same. The hills and valleys are still blazing in autumn garbs of red, yellow and orange.

The Orange County Hunt, founded in 1903 and pictured here, is just one of the five fox hunting clubs in Fauquier County and this county is just one of many that have active fox hunting programs in the Old Dominion. Throughout America fox hunting has proven to be more than just a gentlemen's sport. It is estimated that over one hundred million dollars is currently involved in this sport in the United States. Over 800,000 hounds are to be found in fox hunting kennels and some 200,000 people participate in the sport of the chase. The season in Fauquier County runs from September 1 to March 31. A license is required statewide to hunt foxes with dogs or gun.

George H. Harrison



hounds and hunters on the Crouse Farm in Fauquier County near The Plains.



The beautifully marked pack of fox hounds is also brought to the hunt in a van. Here the whip, Joe Kirby, unloads the pack for the hunt.



Fox hunting is not just a man's sport. Many women are active members of Fauquier County's Orange County Hunt Club. Mrs. George Tener leads this group to the chase.



A groom holds her horse as Mrs. Nelson McClary mounts for a fox hunt in Fauquier County.

Public Hunting and Fishing Areas In Piedmont Virginia

Text and Photos by M. RUPERT CUTLER

Managing Editor

THIRTEEN public hunting and fishing areas managed by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries are strategically located in 19 counties throughout Piedmont Virginia. They provide sportsmen with the opportunity to harvest, at low cost and with a minimum of "red tape," everything from bobwhite to bear and trout to striped bass.

Referred to in jest by game commission personnel as the "Shaffer National Forest" (after C. H. "Kit" Shaffer, supervising game biologist in eastern Virginia since 1947), this highly productive and richly varied complex of large federal, state and private tracts totalling over a quarter of a million acres is unique in the sense that none of it is owned outright by the game commission itself. The areas are improved for game and fish production and are opened to the public under terms of so-called "cooperative agreements" drawn up for each area and modified to suit each situation.

In general, the commission, under these agreements, places the areas under regular game warden patrol, thereby reducing trespass and fire danger, and also carries out game habitat improvements and fish stocking where needed. In some instances, firebreaks are bulldozed and planted, erosion prevention measures are undertaken, game and fish surveys are conducted, and boundaries are posted.

In return, the cooperating landowner opens his acres to all sportsmen having valid Virginia hunting and fishing licenses and, on the military and public forest areas, special free or inexpensive use permits. His main benefit from this arrangement is something hard to define but of extreme importance to owners of large blocks of forested lands—"good public relations." This means, above all, that incendiary fire-setting, vandalism and timber stealing by frustrated hunters should cease once the areas are opened to public hunting.

The game commission benefits through being able to allocate most of its money spent on these areas to food and cover plantings and other activities resulting directly in higher game and fish populations. Very little of its funds spent on these areas go toward landowner obligation-type expenditures such as boundary marking, road and building construction and maintenance, timber marking, and taxes. Work on many of the areas is done by hiring local labor and with the assistance of the local game warden, making unnecessary the purchase of equipment, construction of an equipment depot, or hiring of a full-time game manager on every area.

The sportsmen—especially those in eastern Virginia and the Washington, D. C., area—benefit by having the opportunity to harvest game and fish within a reasonable distance of their homes. It wasn't very long ago that the million and a half acres of national forest land in western Virginia, also managed for game and fish production by the game commission under a cooperative agreement, were about all the commission had to offer the public in the way of hunting and fishing opportunity.

The city-dwelling sportsman probably stands to benefit the most from these agreements. He no longer has to spend time knocking on farmers' doors seeking permission to hunt and fish on private land. These 13 eastern "wildlife management areas" are well posted with yellow and black "welcome" signs and are ready and waiting for him.

The three state forests, administered by the Virginia Division of Forestry, have been managed for game and fish production by the game commission under cooperative agreement since 1940. Most popular with hunters is the 15,105-acre Cumberland State Forest in Cumberland County. It is



One of the game commission's newly-designed yellow and black boundary posting signs is nailed beneath a Division of Forestry sign by State Forests Game Manager S. E. Morris.



State Forests Game Refuge Supervisor W. C. Newman and Game Manager Morris stand knee-deep in annual game bird mixture while checking one of many bicolor lespedeza borders on the forests.

highly productive habitat, consisting of several separate blocks of forest interspersed with private farmland, and is easily hunted, being crisscrossed by many roads. Rabbits, quail, squirrels, turkeys and deer are all abundant on this forest and are taken in large numbers. An unusual combination of circumstances led to the unusually high harvest on this forest during the 1959-60 season of 150 deer (including 55 doe) and 115 turkeys.

Hunters reach this happy hunting ground by heading north off U. S. Route 60 in the vicinity of Cumberland Court House, usually on Routes 623 or 629. All of the forest except that immediately surrounding the commission's experimental game farm (located west of Route 45 on Route 615 at the upper end of the forest) is open to hunting.

Fishermen catch largemouth bass, bream and crappie in the two lakes on this forest, 55-acre Bear Creek Lake (five miles north of Cumberland Court House on Route 622, then one mile west on Route 629) and 10-acre Winston Lake (three miles north of Route 60 on Route 629), and also fish the Willis River which borders the forest.



District Game Biologist John B. Redd, Jr., Game Warden Nelson Phelps and Game Manager J. H. Garrett have seen to it that game on Camp Pickett is "in the clover."



Likewise, wildlife (and hunters) never had it so good on Camp A. P. Hill where District Game Biologist Howard L. Sheldon and Game Warden Roland Eager are shown inspecting an annual mixture planting.

Larger (18,534 acres) and practically in one solid block, the Buckingham-Appomattox State Forest also has good deer, turkey and small game populations and, in addition, some ruffed grouse. Its fewer roads and more rugged topography make it somewhat more difficult to hunt, but an estimated 85 deer and 35 turkeys were taken off the area during the 1959-60 season.

Located southwest of Buckingham Court House, it is reached by taking Routes 636 or 618 south from Route 24. It can also be entered from the east by taking Route 640 from Sprouses Corner and Andersonville.

Largemouth bass, crappie and bream have been stocked in 145-acre Holliday Lake 10 miles south of Mt. Rush on Route 24 to a sign leading to this lake on the Buckingham-Appomattox forest.

Third state forest open to public hunting is the Prince Edward State Forest, a 7,000-acre tract located north of Green Bay between Routes 360 and 696 in Prince Edward County. Utilized by sportsmen primarily as a foxhunting area, it also offers limited small game hunting and two fine fishing lakes, 10-acre Goodwin Lake and 37-acre Prince Edward Lake, both reached by taking Route 621 west from Route 360 about three miles southwest of Burkeville.

The three state forests are managed as one unit by Game Refuge Supervisor W. C. Newman and Game Manager S. E. Morris under the supervision of Supervising Biologist Shaffer. To indicate the extent of game habitat improvement work on these forests, during the 1959-60 fiscal year alone, 50 acres of Korean lespedeza patches, 94 one-acre annual game bird mixture plots, 75 small grain-ladino clover clearings, and 21 two-acre corn fields were planted on the three areas, and 175 acres were mowed to retard succession.

Special one-dollar use permit stamps available at the Division of Forestry office at Farmville, at the Cumberland forest headquarters and at courthouses of the counties in which the forests are located are required in addition to regular licenses to hunt or trap on the state forests. During the 1959-60 season a total of 3,180 state forest stamps were sold, an increase of 968 over the preceding year.

Near the state forests (midway between Routes 60 and 640 on Route 638, three miles south of Buckingham Court House) lies the 3,000-acre Lee Experimental Forest, U. S. Forest Service property recently opened to public hunting. To hunt this area a one-dollar national forest stamp obtainable at all license agencies is required. Also on the Lee forest is 20-acre Horsepen Lake, which has been stocked by the game commission with largemouth bass, crappie and bream.

In 1956 the game commission entered into a cooperative agreement with the Second United States Army to operate 47,000-acre Camp Pickett east of Blackstone in Brunswick, Dinwiddie and Nottoway counties as a public hunting and fishing area. Since that time both hunter use and game harvest have increased considerably. During the 1959-60 season 3,797 hunters, including 3,304 civilians, harvested 152 deer, 19 turkey gobblers, 1,936 quail, 3,474 rabbits, 1,815 squirrels, and 67 ducks.

Hunters must obtain free season permits at the post headquarters each year and must check in and out of the reservation each day through a game commission-operated check station on Route 40, where they are assigned to specific areas. Rabbit hunting is phenomenally successful at Pickett. Bird dog and beagle field trials are held there regularly. The shooting of doe deer and hen turkeys and the use of rifles is prohibited on the post.

Fishermen, after obtaining free season permits, fish 150-acre Lake Tommehton, 100-acre Lake Birchen and 350-acre Pickett Reservoir on the reservation with considerable success.

On Camp Pickett, the following planting program was conducted during the 1959-60 fiscal year: 20 miles of fire-breaks seeded to combinations of small grain, ladino clover and grasses; 200 acres seeded to Korean lespedeza; 100 half-acre plots seeded to game bird mixture; five two-acre corn fields planted; 9½ acres seeded to rye and clover; and a two-acre fescue grass seed production plot was established. In addition, 260 acres were mowed to retard ecological succession.

On this area the game management work is carried out by Game Manager J. H. Garrett under the supervision of District Game Biologist John B. Redd, Jr., with State Game Warden Nelson Phelps cooperating.

A cooperative agreement similar to that with Camp Pickett was signed in 1959 to officially put 77,000-acre Camp A. P. Hill in Caroline County under game commission management. It has an outstanding deer herd and is within an hour's drive of Washington, D. C., which results in high hunter pressure throughout deer season, but its abundant small game also warrant hunter interest, especially after the close of deer season. During the 1959-60 season 1,073 deer, 78 turkeys, 1,562 rabbits, 472 quail and 818 squirrels were harvested on this northern Virginia post.

Good warmwater fishing is also present on A. P. Hill; 10 lakes, many of them with boats available, are open to any fishermen with a valid license who first obtains a free permit at the post headquarters, located just north of Bowling Green on Route 301.

Written applications are required at this post, and are accepted after October 1. They should be addressed to Commanding Officer, Camp A. P. Hill, Virginia, ATTN: Hunting Administrator, and must reach him seven days before the dates desired. A detailed information bulletin regarding hunting regulations at Camp A. P. Hill should be obtained from this address prior to any attempt to obtain a permit.

Game management activities were carried out on Camp A. P. Hill during the 1959-60 fiscal year by State Game Warden Roland Eager and by hourly labor under the supervision of District Game Biologist Howard L. Sheldon as well as by the Army. They included 150 acres of small grain and clover plantings, 15 annual game bird mixture plantings, the clearing and disking of a 12-mile, 100-foot-wide utility line, and the treatment by controlled burn of 600 acres of fallow land.

Two large tracts of productive land controlled by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers are also being improved now for fish and game production under terms of cooperative agreements with the Virginia game commission.

The 50,000 acres of federally-owned land surrounding 50,000-acre Kerr Reservoir (Buggs Island Lake) in Charlotte, Halifax and Mecklenburg counties have been under game management for several years. Hunters annually take large numbers of rabbits, quail and squirrels and some deer, turkey and waterfowl from the abandoned farmland bordering the reservoir which, itself, has become famous recently as the home of an unusual freshwater gamefish—the "land-locked" striped bass.

Practically all of the land surrounding the reservoir except that in "public recreation areas" (campgrounds) and state waterfowl refuges is open to public hunting. Much of this land can be reached by heading south toward the



Environmental improvements for waterfowl as well as small game are carried out along the irregular margins of Buggs Island Lake by Game Manager D. B. Duffer.



Game Warden E. T. Lemons indicates the site of a game habitat improvement project along the margin of Philpott Reservoir to Army Corps of Engineers Refuge Manager C. H. Burrage and District Game Biologist Hal W. Myers.



The cost of constructing the Goose Point access road and boat landing on Philpott Reservoir was paid in part by the game commission.

reservoir on any road off Route 58 between Route 4 and Clarksville. Reaching out-of-the-way hunting grounds along the reservoir margin by boat is becoming more popular every year. Hunting for deer along the Staunton River in Charlotte County is often successful.

During the 1959-60 fiscal year Game Manager D. B. Duffer, under the supervision of Biologist Redd, accom-



The clearing and seeding of fire lanes by the game commission along roads through Union Bag-Camp Paper Corporation lands in Brunswick County has proven mutually beneficial.



Game Warden R. S. Crigler posts a "welcome sportsman" sign on the Ward-Rue Cooperative Wildlife Management Area.



The Ward-Rue tract, located on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge, abounds with grouse and provides good bear hunting.

pished the following on the Kerr unit: 67 annual game bird mix plantings, 50 acres of Korean lespedeza seeded, 19 acres of clover-small grain seeded for geese, two acres of millet seeded along reservoir edges, and an estimated 100 acres mowed with the rotary mower. This includes work on two waterfowl refuges, one across the Stanton River from Stanton River State Park—the "Epley Tract"—and the other south

of Boydton and known as the "Hundley Tract."

The second Corps of Engineers area under cooperative wildlife management in Virginia is the Philpott Wildlife Management Area, 4,750 acres bordering 3,000-acre Philpott Lake in Franklin, Henry and Patrick counties. Here and in the adjoining 6,000-acre Fairy Stone Farms Wildlife Management Area are found some of the largest deer in the state as well as squirrels, rabbits and quail.

Fishing in beautiful Philpott Lake is especially rewarding—five pound-plus largemouth bass as well as smallmouth bass of record proportions are not uncommon—and the Smith River below the dam offers some of the finest trout fishing and the largest trout to be found in the Old Dominion.

Local labor and equipment are used by District Game Biologist Hal W. Myers to put in game habitat improvements on these two areas which, during the 1959-60 fiscal year, included 33 small grain-clover plantings and the creation of 13 two-acre clearings with a bulldozer.

Much of the area can be entered by taking Route 57 from Bassett west through Fairy Stone State Park to Route 623, turning east off 623 on Route 624 going on to dead ends on 624 or Route 713.

The first cooperative agreement initiated between the Virginia commission and a private corporation took place in 1958 when the Union Bag-Camp Paper Corporation opened 15,000 acres in small tracts south of Route 58 in southeastern Brunswick County to hunters from all over the state. Well posted with game commission signs, these forested acres harbor a good supply of rabbits, quail and squirrels and some turkeys. Habitat improvements put in during the 1959-60 fiscal year included the planting of eight miles of firebreaks to Korean lespedeza and the clipping with the rotary mower of additional miles of firelane.

Other successful commission-private landowner cooperative agreements have resulted in the establishment of the 3,800-acre Lester (Lumber Company) Wildlife Management Area adjacent to the Martinsville Reservoir north of Martinsville in Henry County—this area is a real squirrel producer—and the 9,000 public acres in Madison and Greene counties adjacent to Shenandoah National Park composed of the 8,500-acre Ward-Rue wildlife area and the 500-acre Aylor-Berry wildlife area.

These latter two public hunting grounds, situated on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge, not only provide fine grouse and bear hunting but include some of the best native trout streams in Virginia including the Rapidan and the Middle, or Conway, Rivers.

Management techniques used on these areas, carried out by Biologist Sheldon with Game Warden R. S. Crigler co-operating, have included the establishment of a 10-mile hunter access road and five two-acre clearings and the seeding of rye and clover.

It has been through the generosity of public and private landowners as well as through the dedication and hard work of many game commission employees that these fine public hunting areas are available and abundantly blessed with game and fish. The game commission is constantly in search of additional acreage to open to the public under the terms of cooperative agreements such as those outlined above, and landowners interested in having such a public-spirited program being carried out on their lands are urged to contact the game commission representative in their locality. As they do so, the acreage in public hunting lands in Virginia will be increased in the most efficient way possible.



Bird of the Month:

The Whip-poor-will

By DR. J. J. MURRAY

Lexington, Virginia

THE number of our common birds which announce their names every time they call is quite striking. The bob-white is a familiar example. So is the bird usually known as the towhee, but which in some places where its call is differently translated is given the name of "chewink." The killdeer is another, which even at night can be heard introducing itself, "killdeer, killdeer." Still others are the curlew, the willet, the phoebe, the pewee, the bobolink, the little chickadee, and several of the vireos.

Of all these, however, the whip-poor-will excels both in the vigor and the persistence with which it seeks to make itself known. Only the English cuckoo which puts its eggs in the nests of other birds and thus has plenty of time on its hands can call so continuously. One night on Middle Mountain in Highland County I counted while a whip-poor-will called 220 times. There is a note in an old issue of *The Auk* about a bird on Staten Island which called about 1,000 times without a break of more than five seconds.

I doubt if there is a reader of this sketch who has not heard a whip-poor-will, although there are probably many who have never seen this bird of darkness. It is more in evidence now in the days of automobiles because of the way in which the lights of a car often show one perched on the ground at the side of a country road. Then its large eyes shine like red torches.

The whip-poor-will sounds its name distinctly, though the "will" note is usually a double note, something like "wee-yah." The accents come on the "whip" and on the first part

of the closing double note. If one is close enough to the singing bird, he can hear a low preliminary "chuck" before the "whip-poor-will" call. Country dwellers in southeastern Virginia will be familiar with the song of a closely related bird, the chuck-will's-widow. In this bird the "chuck" that begins the song is almost as loud as the rest of the song. So far as I know, the whip-poor-will sings only between dusk and dawn, mainly in the late evening and early morning, but more continuously on moonlight nights.

It is in the night too that this bird does its hunting. It flies low on soundless wings over open fields rather than high in the air as does its other relative, the nighthawk, or "bull-bat." It is often confused with the latter bird although the notes and habits of the two are quite different. They are alike in appearance, both being fairly large, dark, and streaked, but the whip-poor-will has shorter wings and white feathers in the sides of its tail, while the nighthawk has a large white spot in each wing.

The whip-poor-will makes no nest, simply laying its two eggs in open, dry woods on the ground or on a flattened place in the leaves. In Virginia, the eggs, shiny white and mottled with brown or lilac, are laid about the middle of May.

Ignorant people sometimes have a superstitious fear of this bird, simply because its notes sound out of the darkness. Its song is thought to be a sign of bad luck or even of death. If this were true, however, a song so common would long ago have announced the complete destruction of all the people of our state.

Waterfowl Conditions "About The Same"

Duck Flights Expected "About Like Last Year" in Three Flyways; Down in Pacific

Duck flights in the Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic Flyways this year are expected to be approximately equivalent to those of last year, the Department of the Interior reported today.

This will depend, however, on duck production in Saskatchewan and Manitoba living up to expectations.

Breeding populations of important species in all flyways were down this year, and only in the three eastern flyways was the hatch sufficient to offset this decline.

The redhead and canvasback are still in short supply. The winter survey showed that both of these species were down from last year and well below the five-year average in numbers. Breeding ground conditions were better this year, but although production was improved somewhat over last year, the flight of each of these species this fall will be low enough to remain a matter of real concern.

There is an encouraging note to Atlantic hunters in the 20 percent increase in the wintering population of black ducks. However, Fish and Wildlife Service biologists point out, the current population is still considerably below the peak level of 1955.

The over-all flight of ducks in the Atlantic flyway is expected to be about the same as last year. Because of the lack of well-developed surveys in the important Quebec-Labrador breeding area, it is not possible to place the same reliance upon breeding ground data in predicting Atlantic Flyway flights as on the other flyways. From the data available, there is little reason to expect an increase in production this year.

No change is expected in the flight of Canada geese and the brant. There will probably be a slight increase in the coot flight.

Preliminary Report on Conditions on Waterfowl Breeding Grounds

North American waterfowl still have hurdles to overcome on their road back from the serious population declines of the past two years, and preliminary reports have given no reason for real optimism that ducks are on the upward trend this year.

Last summer, the information collected by the Fish and Wildlife Service prompted its officials to forecast a serious decline in duck numbers and develop a pattern of restrictions on hunting to make certain the kill would not cut excessively into the basic breeding stock which must be sent back to the northern nesting grounds each year.

The experiences of hunters last season demonstrated the action was justified, Service officials say. The annual kill data collected in a postcard questionnaire of a large sample of American hunters showed that the kill of ducks decreased 42 percent from the year before. Adding the decreases in crippling losses and birds retrieved together, it is estimated that the reduction in the kill was approximately 6,000,000 ducks. A decline in hunter numbers contributed to this reduction.

The first 1960 aerial survey conducted by the Service in Canada in May revealed that, despite this major decrease in kill during the past season, the number of breeding birds on the nesting grounds was down about one-fifth from a year ago.

Changes in the numbers of breeders of the important

species were as follows this year.

Mallard, down 24 percent; pintail, down nine percent; scaup, down 20 percent; baldpate (widgeon), down 22 percent; blue-winged teal, down 12 percent.

The shoveler was the only species recorded in large numbers during the breeding ground survey which showed an increase: 20 percent.

Canvasbacks and redheads, it was pointed out, are among the species whose numbers are so small relatively that they are subject to rather high sampling errors in the breeding ground surveys, and their population trend indices are less reliable than those for the numerous species. Data from both winter and breeding ground surveys, however, showed the 1960 breeding population of redheads was further reduced from the previous year.

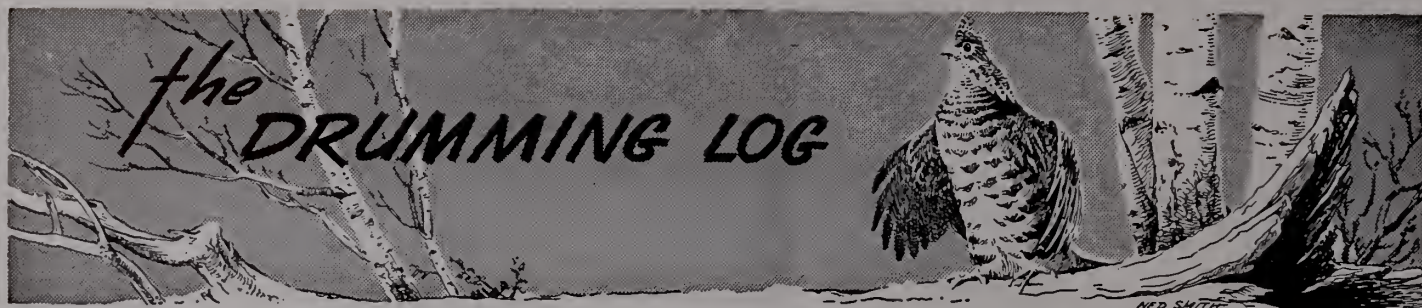
In the case of canvasbacks, the winter survey showed the 1960 population reduced while the breeding ground index for these birds increased somewhat. Special significance was given to the fact that more than half of the canvasbacks recorded in the spring breeding ground survey this year were in forest and tundra habitat north and east of the prairies and parklands where they normally rest. In contrast, only 10 percent were recorded outside the prairies and parklands in 1957. Since forest and tundra habitats are not suitable for canvasback production, the present breeding ground distribution pattern is considered unfavorable for the species.

As a result of the drought last year, there was a major shift of the duck breeding population northward from the prairies, and the number of adults in the North during the nesting season increased markedly. This year, there is a correspondingly large decrease in the number of breeders in this northern area—northern Alberta and the Northwest Territories. Better water conditions in some parts of the Canadian prairies which stopped northward migration and the over-all decrease in the breeding population are responsible for this change.

Waterfowl breeding population levels compared to last year on the breeding ground, according to the surveys, are as follows: the same in southern Saskatchewan; decreased somewhat in southern Alberta, northern Saskatchewan, southern Manitoba, and Minnesota; small increases in Nebraska, Ontario, and northern Manitoba; and major increases in North and South Dakota. It is pointed out that a relatively small part of the duck production occurs south of the border in the United States.

Field personnel report water conditions in the midcontinent prairie and parkland nesting habitat considerably improved in many areas this year. Southeastern Saskatchewan and southwestern Manitoba had good water last fall and winter, and frequent rains during the current season. However, drought continued in southwestern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta. In these areas, many birds nested in the vicinity of ponds with shallow water which went dry. In addition, southern Alberta experienced a late April snowstorm which caused widespread losses of early nests. Reduction of early nesting cover as a result of plowing and mowing in dry potholes last year and as a result of a large amount of burning also contributed to a low success of early nesting efforts.

However, there has been a lush growth of emergent vegetation during the season in the well-watered areas. Although much of this vegetation came on too late to provide nesting sites this year, it is certain that nesting habitat conditions will be much improved in these areas next year.

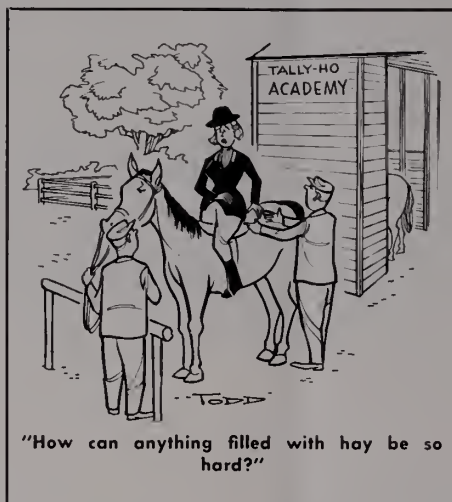


Dr. Hugh H. Bennett Succumbs

Dr. Hugh H. Bennett, 79, retired first chief of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and internationally known "father of soil conservation," died in Burlington, North Carolina, on July 7. Burial was in Arlington Cemetery, Virginia.

Adroitly combining science and showmanship, Dr. Bennett carried on a personal campaign to sell soil conservation to the nation for nearly half a century. His profound knowledge, boundless energy, keen sense of the dramatic, and ability to both speak and write persuasively enabled him, almost singlehandedly, to promote the present nationwide soil and water conservation and watershed protection program. The "Chief," as Dr. Bennett was known widely, also developed similar programs in 48 foreign countries.

Dr. Bennett retired from the Department of Agriculture in 1952. He remained active in soil and water conservation work, serving as a consultant to various countries and writing special articles to the time of his death.



"How can anything filled with hay be so hard?"

Two More Wildlife Refuges Authorized

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has authorized the establishment of two new National Wildlife Refuges: one by acquisition of the necessary lands; and the other by lease with the option to purchase, the Department of the Interior reports. The Commission also authorized the acquisition of additional lands for existing refuges and approved boundary changes in two of them. Total acquisitions authorized were 33,440 acres.

The two new areas will be the Ouray National Wildlife Refuge in Uintah County, Utah, and the Wapanocca National Wildlife Refuge in Crittenden County, Arkansas. The 5,532-acre Wapanocca Refuge is to be acquired by the lease-option-to-purchase basis. There are 9,720 acres of privately owned land in the proposed Ouray Refuge.

The Ouray Refuge in Utah will provide needed protection for the Great Basin goose which has historically nested in that area. Acquisition of the lands which includes leasing 2,222 acres from the Ute Indian tribe was considered advisable to preserve and develop the ox-bow lakes and marshes. The Wapanocca Refuge will be a unit in the National Refuge system and will aid in extending the goose migration to the southern part of the Mississippi Valley.

Deep Wells Drilled at Chantilly Airport Site Yield Surprising Quantity of Water

Studies made by the Geological Survey in the vicinity of Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, Va., indicate ample water for construction needs but show it to be moderately mineralized, very hard, and in need of treatment to make it suitable for domestic and some industrial uses, the Department of the Interior said recently.

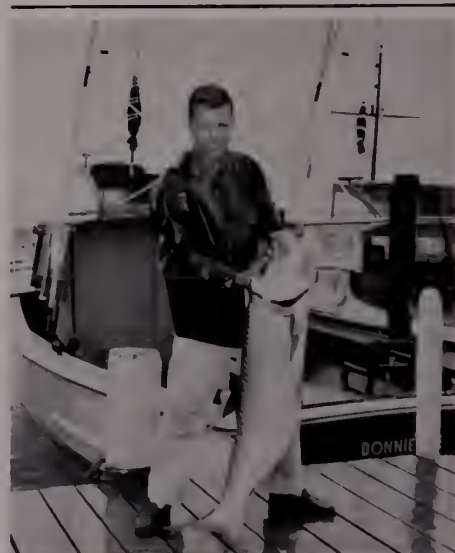
Pumping tests of two wells drilled to 860 and 955 feet by contractors in the spring of 1959 indicate yields of 327 and 600 gallons per minute, which are very high for the red shale water-bearing formation penetrated. Previously no known well in the immediate vicinity was more than 180 feet deep or produced more than 12 gallons per minute.

Because of increasing interest in ground-water supplies in the Chantilly area, Circular 424, titled "Ground-Water Supplies in Shale and Sandstone in Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties, Va.," was prepared by Survey geologist, Paul M. Johnston. Copies are available on request to the Geological Survey, Washington 25, D. C.



Salt-Water Sport Fishing Assn. Photo

First blue marlin caught off the Virginia coast was boated on July 9 by Al Noyes (right) of Portsmouth, assisted by Josh Vaughn, captain of the Sunny V. Noyes caught the 286½-pound marlin on an 80-pound dacron line. The 40 minute battle took place 55 miles east of Cape Henry.



Salt-Water Sport Fishing Assn. Photo

The season's first tarpon was caught by Charles Covell, Jr., son of the Washington Evening Star outdoor writer. This 47½-pound specimen was landed on August 11 near Oyster. It was the 14th taken in Virginia.

New Ranger For Lee District

Supervisor A. H. Anderson of the George Washington National Forest has announced that John M. Hiner, Ranger on the Warm Springs Ranger District, Hot Springs, Virginia, has been selected to replace Ranger B. A. Eger of the Lee District with headquarters at Edinburg, Virginia. Ranger Eger retired August 1, 1960, and the transfer was effective on that date.

Ranger Hiner is a native West Virginian, graduating from West Virginia University. He worked on the Monongahela National Forest in West Virginia, until his transfer to the George Washington National Forest as Assistant Ranger on the Pedlar District, Buena Vista, Virginia.

Contract Awarded to Eliminate Hazardous Crossings on Blue Ridge Parkway

The award of a \$135,238 National Park Service contract for construction of overpasses and relocation of portions of some roads to eliminate dangerous crossings on the Blue Ridge Parkway in Carroll and Patrick Counties, Virginia, was recently announced by the Department of the Interior.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said the contract calls for construction of culvert-type overpasses to carry Blue Ridge Parkway traffic over Virginia Secondary Routes 638 and 614. Road work includes relocation of incidental roads and construction of an access road to the Parkway north of the Route 614 overpass.

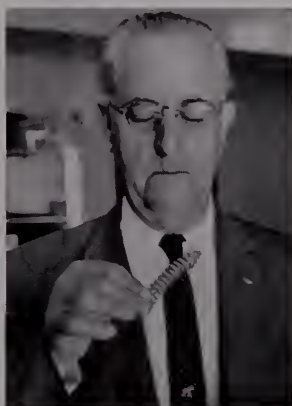


This 12-pound bass is one of 20 over 5 pounds caught by Pete Shelton of Martinsville in Philpott Reservoir. This one was landed in May 1959.

Is This Lure Legal? (Continued)

MR. EDITOR, I've been asked to describe the lure which was the subject of my letter in your August magazine, so here it is: hook size, 6 or 8; body, silver tinsel built up; attractors, two salmon-egg-colored beads wired on just above bend of hook; tail, white hairs. Now . . . tie one and begin to enjoy fishing!

Sam Vanderslice
Falls Church, Virginia



United States Marshal R. A. Simpson of Richmond killed a 62-inch timber rattlesnake in Pittsylvania County in late June. The world's record is 74 inches. The snake had 13 rattles and a button.

New Index to United States Topographic Mapping

A new index map of the United States has been published by the Geological Survey covering small-scale maps in the 1:250,000 scale topographic map series. When completed this series covering all 50 States will contain 626 maps, 437 of which are now available. Ninety-five have been completed during the past 15 months and 32 are in progress. All are expected to be available by late 1962 or early 1963.

Generally, each quadrangle map covers one degree of latitude and two degrees of longitude or an average of more than 7,000 square miles. Villages, towns,

roads, railroads and other important culture are shown, as well as the names and general character of the principal topographic and hydrographic features. The contour interval used varies from 50 to 500 feet depending upon terrain and the source data available.

The maps are printed in five colors with cultural features in black. Railroads are symbolized according to gauge and number of tracks, and roads are classified by symbols indicating surface and number of lanes. International, State, county, and government reservation boundaries are shown. The population of towns and cities is indicated by variations in the size of type for place names.

Copies of the newly revised index showing the area covered by each map can be obtained free upon request, from the Map Information Office, Geological Survey, Washington 25, D. C.

Annual Federal "Duck Stamp" Design Contest Announced

The annual contest to select a design for the 1961-62 Federal "duck stamp" opened August 1 this year and will close on November 7, the Department of the Interior has announced.

Artists who desire to enter their drawings in the contest should submit them on or before the deadline date of November 7 to the Office of Information, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Washington 25, D. C.

The theme to be featured on the stamp for the 1961-62 stamp will be "Habitat Produces Ducks." Artists are given a wide latitude in the choice of medium—pen and ink, oil, watercolor, etching, pencil, etc., but all designs must be in black and white only, and 5 x 7 inches in size.



Two channel bass caught on the Virginia end of Assateague Island this summer by Jake Royston (left) and Ralph Canby (not shown), both from Maryland. Little David Royston (right) held the flashlight while the two men brought in the 35- and 45-pound fish during a storm at night on the Eastern Shore island.



This 6-pound, 8-ounce largemouth bass, proudly displayed by John O. Burgess of Alexandria, was caught on August 6 near Woodstock on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.



Four State Game Wardens Retire

Four of the most colorful and dedicated members of the Virginia Game Commission's game warden force have retired recently.

Warden William Dave O'Neill retired on June 28 after 28 years of service in Wise County and southwestern Virginia.

When O'Neill accepted the position in 1932, the four game wardens who had preceded him in that area had been killed from ambush. Despite the difficult area, O'Neill led the state in number of convictions for many years. On one day alone, he wrote up 74 violations.

Delivering babies isn't normally one of the game warden's duties, but O'Neill did this too. One night while checking coon hunters, he delivered a baby at 2:00 a.m. while the husband went for the doctor.

O'Neill and his wife Luella live in Pulaski. They have four children and five grandchildren. At age 65, Dave has decided to catch up on his fishing. He spent some time in Maine recently and plans to go to Alaska next year.

After 27 years as state game warden in the city of Norfolk, Davis A. Robertson, Sr. retired on June 30. Robertson,



now 70, was president of the Virginia Game Wardens' Association and was extremely popular among his fellow wardens. Before coming with the Game Commission on February 1, 1933, Robertson attended N. C. State College and Wake Forest College, and played baseball for the New York Giants, the Pittsburgh Pirates, and the Chicago Cubs.

State Game Warden Willie C. Ansell, Jr., 69, retired from service on June 30 after 23 years of law enforcement in Norfolk County. Ansell has worked with game and fish in the Norfolk County area since October 1, 1937.

Retired due to poor health on April 30 was State Game Warden Charles H. Corbett. Corbett had served in Highland County since 1938 when he took the position of special warden. He accepted the position of regular game warden in that county on April 1, 1942. He is 55.

Back Bay-Currituck Sound Cooperative Study Team Reports

Investigators on the cooperative study of Back Bay and Currituck Sound by the Virginia Game Commission, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission and the Bureau of Sport Fish-

eries and Wildlife report an increase in the occurrence in both fresh and brackish water of a "hydroid"—a small aquatic animal that attaches to water plants and causes mechanical damage resulting in algae and fungus attack.

In May, 11 transect surveys of aquatic vegetation were completed in the Back Bay area. Sixty-eight percent of these samples contained aquatic vegetation, the highest frequency of occurrence for this area since the study began in 1958.

The U. S. Geological Survey, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Research Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture have run chemical analyses of the water, soils and some aquatic plants of the area. With the possible exception of iodide, toxic elements do not seem to occur in these waters.

The effect of salt water on duck food plants is being studied under controlled conditions at Back Bay. Percentages of "sea strength" salt water for best growth and survival have been found to be: sago pondweed, 25 percent; redheadgrass, 15 percent; widgeongrass, 40 percent; wild celery, 10 percent; and bushy pondweed, 10 percent.



Commission Photos by Kesteloo

Each year automobiles take a sizeable toll of our deer population. Here are a buck and a doe found on Route 5 east of Richmond this spring.



This very small but highly productive shrub called pigmy oak is being experimentally grown at Camp Pickett and A. P. Hill as a deer and turkey food by Commission game biologists.

Commission Field Men "Teach Teachers"

Several Game Commission field men became teachers for a short while recently as they provided instruction in fish and game conservation to public school teachers attending three-week summer courses in natural resources conservation. The short courses, held at Virginia State College and the College of William and Mary, included the study of marine life, geology, soil and water, forestry, and wildlife. A third course was held at Virginia Polytechnic Institute earlier in the summer. All told, some 80 Virginia teachers attended the three sessions.

The wildlife phase of the Virginia State and William and Mary courses included classroom instruction by personnel from the Commission's game, fish, and education divisions. Emphasis was placed on basic principles of wildlife conservation which can be taught to students at all grade levels. Teachers were taken on all-day field trips to Charles City County, where they saw wildlife food and cover plantings and visited an area stocked with Iranian blackneck pheasants by the Commission. Several of the birds were observed. The groups also toured the nearby U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service fish hatchery and were shown how largemouth bass and bluegills are raised for stocking farm ponds. Finally, stops were made at two farm ponds where seine samples were taken to vividly illustrate the differences between balanced and unbalanced fish populations.

Commission personnel assisting in the course were: R. G. Martin, C. H. Shaffer, J. B. Redd, Jr., R. E. Wollitz, H. J. Tuttle, B. L. Adams, and G. H. Harvey.

This past summer marked the fifth year that the short courses have been held for Virginia school teachers. Sponsored by the Virginia Resource-Use Education Council, the courses have been ably directed by E. W. Mundie, V.P.I. Extension Soil Conservationist.

Several verses based on their "short course" experiences were written by teachers at the Virginia State College session. One follows:

Keeping the Soil at Home (For Choral Speaking)

How can we keep the soil at home?
How can we keep the soil at home?
Treat it kindly, find its use,
Fertile soil can't stand abuse.
If we try, we can keep the soil at home.

How can we keep the soil at home?
How can we keep the soil at home?



Bird dogs are supposed to point birds and Dunlevy's Joe did just as he was taught. He didn't know that the birds on this bath were china. The dog's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin C. Dunlevy of Topping, Virginia, snapped this picture before "Joe" realized the birds were not real.

Learn to understand its mood,
Give it cover, water, food,
If we try, we can keep the soil at home.

How can we keep the soil at home?
How can we keep the soil at home?
Give it tender, loving care
"Wanted" soil will stay right there.
If we try, we can keep the soil at home.

—EDITH T. HAWLEY

"Drainage Treaty" May Save Wetlands

A "farm drainage treaty" between Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior agencies was announced July 1 by Congressman Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin, whose determined battle in Congress against subsidized destruction of wildlife-producing wetlands had a great deal to do with the new plan.

Under terms of the agreement, county ASC committees will notify Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service whenever any farmer applies for drainage assistance.



A doe with antlers is very rare, but here is one that was killed near Warsaw three years ago by Edward Garland. Pictured here is retired Richmond County Warden Harry France.

USDA agencies will withhold aid until the Fish and Wildlife Service can investigate and recommend for or against the drainage. This will also give the Service a chance to try to buy or lease the endangered wetlands as part of the federal waterfowl program. The agreement makes it clear the ASC committee has final authority to approve or disapprove the subsidies.

The agreement will apply in 80 counties of Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, the so-called "prairie pot-hole region," the most important waterfowl-producing area in the United States outside of Alaska. For years conservationists have campaigned against the USDA programs that used taxpayers' money to subsidize drainage to create new cropland so more taxpayers' money could be used to subsidize the crops and pay storage costs on the surplus. If the new agreement works, a great victory will have been won.

Plan Now for Tomorrow's Trees, Landowners Urged

Trees don't grow overnight, so now is the time for action if this country is to have the timber it needs 40 years from now. This is the theme of a new U. S. Department of Agriculture publication, "Look to Your Timber, America."

The booklet emphasizes four ways of stepping up growth: increase tree planting; keep newly cut lands productive; strengthen the control of diseases, insects, and fire; and use more of the timber now being cut, and dead and cull trees.

"Look to Your Timber, America" is based on the 700-page report "Timber Resources for America's Future" prepared by the Forest Service in 1958. Single copies may be obtained from Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Contract Awarded For Final Paving Of The Gatlinburg Spur Of Foothills Parkway, Tenn.

The award of a \$149,550 National Park Service contract for final paving of four miles of roadway to complete the Gatlinburg Spur of Foothills Parkway in Sevier County, Tennessee, has been announced by the Department of the Interior.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said the contract calls for hot bituminous-concrete paving of the two-lane northbound roadway of the Gatlinburg Spur on the eastern side of the West Prong Little Pigeon River, and the two-lane roadway on the opposite shore.



YOUTH AFIELD



Commission Photos by Harrison

Youngsters like Bobby Moon of Roanoke and Charlotte Settle of Lawrenceville enjoy themselves and learn about wildlife at the same time at Nature Camp at Vesuvius.

Nature Camp Big Success Again

Each summer hundreds of boys and girls in grades five through twelve in Virginia are fortunate enough to go to Nature Camp at Vesuvius. This year was as big as ever, as 280 young people attended two-week sessions throughout the summer.

Nature Camp is sponsored by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs and has been in operation since 1944. Nature Camp and all those who have ever attended it are deeply indebted to its director, Mrs. Fred Schilling, who devotes endless hours to the operation and success of the camp.

Those who go to Nature Camp are given classes in all phases of the world around us, and it is hoped that they will develop a desire to protect their natural heritage.

Classes are conducted in astronomy, entomology, ornithology, forestry, herpetology, botany, geology and wildlife. Professors, teachers and representatives from colleges, universities and state organizations go to Nature Camp to instruct the young people in their particular specialty.

The game commission was just one of the organizations which sent men to each summer session.

Almost all classes are conducted on field trips so that the students can see their subject at first hand . . . this beats reading it out of a book!

The camp has grown over the years and today has a number of large buildings, an outdoor chapel, a concrete swimming pool fed by cold, clear spring water, and many hiking trails throughout the mountains that surround the camp.

If you plan to go to Nature Camp next summer, better get your application in early!

Annual Wildlife Conservation Essay Contest Underway

If you are a student in a Virginia school, grade 5 through 12, then put on your thinking cap. You could be one of the 225 cash prize winners in the Fourteenth Annual Wildlife Conservation Essay Contest. If you are a senior, you could win the \$400.00 conservation scholarship.

The contest is sponsored by the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America. This year's subject is "How Wildlife Conservation Needs Can Be Met In My Community." Winners will receive a total of \$2,400.00 in prizes.

The contest will begin on September 15 and end January 31.

The scholarship winner and the grand prize winner from each grade will come to Richmond next spring and will have their awards presented to them by Governor Almond at the State Capitol.

If you are interested in entering this contest, ask your school teacher or principal to submit an official entry card, available from Contest Headquarters, Box 1642, Richmond 13.

Virginia Wildlife Used to Improve Slow Readers

"Virginia Wildlife magazine stimulates my students to read more, and I use it to improve the slow readers in my class," reports Mrs. Mary R. Tinkham of Mathew Whaley Elementary school in Williamsburg.

Two boys in Mrs. Tinkham's class were behind the rest of the students in their reading ability, so the teacher gave them some recent issues of the Virginia Wildlife, and they read them with interest.



Pel skunks like this one can be dangerous carriers of rabies warn health experts.

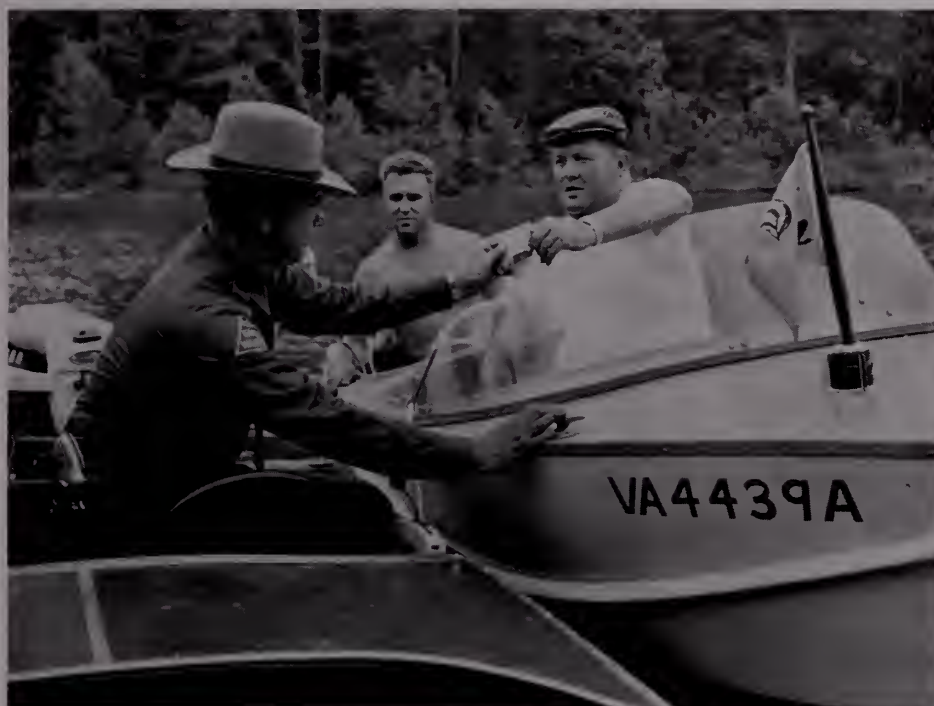
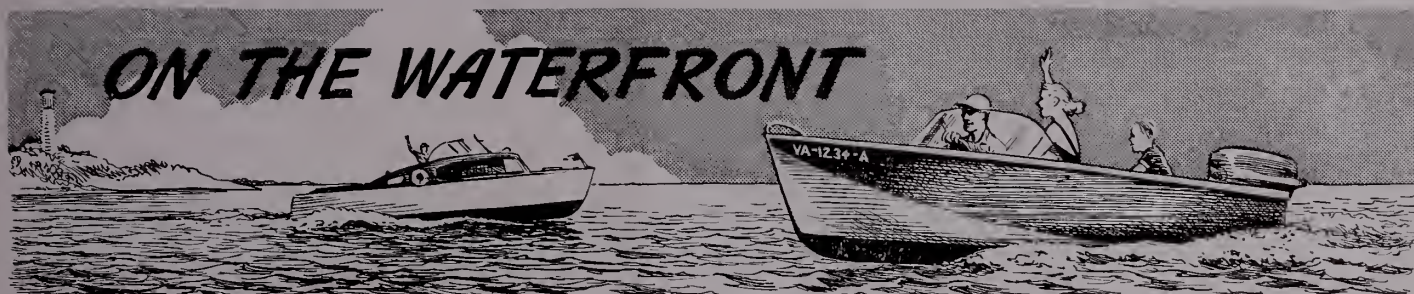
Health Department Terms Wild Pets Dangerous

"If you are keeping a wild animal as a pet in your home, you had better release it; the pet might be carrying rabies," says Dr. Martin B. Marx, head of the State Health Department's Bureau of Communicable Disease.

A recent "stink" began when a Richmond newspaper carried a story of a little girl who was catching and selling wild baby skunks. Dr. Marx pointed out that this was dangerous because the little girl had no history of the skunks' exposure to disease. The fact that the baby skunks were motherless led one to believe that the mother may have died, perhaps from rabies. It takes up to six months for rabies to incubate, so the young skunks could develop the disease long after they were caught.

When asked if the young skunks could be inoculated like dogs, Dr. Marx said that it was difficult if not impossible to safely inoculate any wild baby animal since young animals do not respond to the production of antibodies as well as adults. He added that the inoculation of adult wild animals was unpredictable because not enough study has been conducted on the subject.

In addition to all this, it is against state law to keep a wild animal in captivity. So if you have a wild pet, better release it before you endanger the health of your family and friends, or the pocket-book of your parents who have to pay the fine.



Commission Photo by Harrison
This is a common scene on the waters of the state since the Virginia Boating Safety Act went into effect on July 1. Mecklenburg County Game Warden Gerald Simmons checks registration cards of two boaters on Buggs Island Lake.

July Big Boat Month for Wardens

Webb Midyette, chief of the Virginia Game Commission's law enforcement division, has announced that, during July, their first month of boat law enforcement, Virginia game wardens devoted 2,634 hours to that new duty, about 10 percent of their total working hours.

Midyette also said that his force achieved 625 convictions in their game, fish, boat, and dog law work for the month of July. The wardens worked a total of 29,635 hours and traveled 300,003 miles during the month.

Potomac River Motorboat Registration Agreement Clarified

The terms of the agreement relating to motorboat registration on the Potomac River, made on July 19, were recently clarified by officials of the Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Maryland Department of Tidewater Fisheries. Clarified were these points:

1. Any Virginia pleasure boat regis-

tered before the July 19 agreement may use the Potomac River and display either state's numbers for the remainder of that state's current registration period.

2. All Virginia commercial boats must abide by the July 19 agreement.

3. Any Virginia pleasure boat registered after the July 19 date must be registered in accordance with the terms of the agreement. These terms of the two-state pact, applying to the Virginia side of the Potomac only, are these:

1. All Virginia motorboats used commercially on the Potomac River for more than 90 days in a year shall be registered with the Maryland Commission. (This means that Virginia boat owners accruing an income from any commercial operation of their boats any time during each of 90 days in a calendar year should register in Maryland.)

2. All Virginia pleasure motorboats over 16 feet shall be registered with the Virginia Commission. (This means that Virginia owners of a pleasure boat of over 16 feet in length, even though usually moored or anchored in the Po-

tomac, shall register in Virginia and have unlimited use of the Potomac River insofar as Maryland numbering requirements are concerned.)

3. All Virginia small boats or skiffs 16 feet or less in length and kept on the banks of the Potomac River shall be registered in accordance with Maryland law. (This means that Virginia pleasure boat owners having boats 16 feet and under in length which are kept on the banks of the Potomac and are afloat in that river more than any other state's waters, should register with Maryland.)

4. All Virginia small boats 16 feet or less in length kept in the tributaries of the Potomac River shall be registered in accordance with the Virginia law. (This means that Virginia pleasure boats 16 feet and under which are moored or anchored in Virginia waters but operated in the Potomac River should register in Virginia.)

In addition, all Virginia pleasure boats 16 feet or less in length which are anchored or moored (kept) in Maryland waters should be registered with Maryland, as should those 16 feet or less in length kept on the banks of the Potomac and used primarily in that river.

Boat owners should remember that registration is necessary *only* if the boat is powered by a "10 or more horsepower motor" for a Virginia registration and an "over 7½ horsepower motor" for a Maryland registration.

Boat owners needing a Virginia registration should contact the Boat Section, Virginia Game Commission, Box 1642, Richmond, Va., while those needing a Maryland number must contact the Department of Tidewater Fisheries, Boating and Recreation Division, Annapolis, Maryland.

The terms of this agreement only apply to the tidewaters of the Potomac River below Little Falls in Montgomery County, Maryland.

All Virginia motorboats powered by more than 7½ HP motors and used on the non-tidal waters of the Potomac River for more than 90 days in a year should be registered in Maryland.

14th Annual WILDLIFE ESSAY CONTEST!

SUBJECT:

HOW WILDLIFE CONSERVATION NEEDS CAN BE MET
IN MY COMMUNITY

SPONSORED BY: The Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries
and the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League
of America.

ENDORSED BY: The Virginia Resource-Use Education Council and
the Resource-Use Education Committee of the Vir-
ginia Academy of Science.

September 15, 1960-January 31, 1961

PRIZES:

A total of **\$2,400.00**
in cash prizes will be awarded.

225 PRIZES:

| | |
|--|------------|
| 1 High School Senior Conservation Scholarship ..\$ | 400.00 |
| 8 Grand Prize Awards, \$50.00 each, one to each eligible grade, totaling | 400.00 |
| 8 Second Prizes, \$25.00 each, one to each eligible grade, totaling | 200.00 |
| 16 Third Prizes, \$15.00 each, two to each eligible grade, totaling | 240.00 |
| 24 Honorable Mention Prizes, \$10.00 each, divided among eligible grades in proportion to response, totaling | 240.00 |
| 168 Special Mention Prizes, \$5.00 each, divided among eligible grades in proportion to response, totaling | 840.00 |
| School Prizes totaling | 80.00 |
| Grand Prize Total | \$2,400.00 |

The scholarship winner and the eight grand prize winners will come to Richmond as guests of honor of the sponsors and will have their awards presented to them by Governor Almond. Others will be given their awards in the schools. Certificates of Merit will also be awarded in addition to the cash awards.

RULES:

- Students from all Virginia Schools, grades 5-12 inclusive, are eligible.
- Essays must be submitted through the schools participating. To be eligible, schools must submit an official entry card. Completed entry cards, when received, will result in contest headquarters' mailing out reference materials.
- Each essay submitted must indicate in the upper right hand corner: name, age, sex, grade, school, teacher, home address, city or county.
- High school seniors competing for the scholarship must submit a completed scholarship form, obtainable from Contest Headquarters, with their essays.
- Grand prize awards cannot be given to winners two years in succession, nor to children of Commission employees.
- Essays should not exceed 1000 words.
- Essays will be judged on the basis of originality, effort, grammar, expression, and grasp of the subject. Final judging will be made by a panel of three judges representing the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Virginia Division of the Izaak Walton League of America, and the Virginia State Department of Education.
- All essays **MUST** be sent prepaid to the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Box 1642, Richmond 13, Virginia, and postmarked not later than January 31, 1961. Teachers are urged to send in **ALL** essays.
- School awards will be made on the basis of response and quality of essays.



\$2400⁰⁰
in
PRIZES